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**FORTUNE WRITER:**

## 8 White House Aides Stand Close to Ike 10

**NEW YORK**—Robert Cutler, special assistant to President, is described by Fortune magazine today as potentially "the most influential single figure in forming national policy (next to Eisenhower himself)."

Cutler, a Boston lawyer and banker and reserve brigadier general, reorganized the National Security Council at Eisenhower's direction. He now runs the council for the President and is chairman of the council's Planning Board, which Fortune calls "the central switchboard of security planning in the government."

Fortune says that Eisenhower's "most significant contribution to the executive technique" may turn out to be his use of the N. S. C. as "the strategic planning body at the apex of the government." Founded in 1947, the council formerly met only intermittently, but now has at least one session a week (on Thursdays) with Eisenhower regularly in attendance.

**THE ARTICLE** (written by Charles J. V. Murphy, of Fortune's board of editors and formerly a special advisor to Secretary Thomas K. Finletter and Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg) includes Cutler among the eight men on the White House staff who "stand closest to the President."

The other seven: Sherman Adams, Dr. Gabriel Hauge, James C. Hagerty, C. D. Jackson, Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons (U. S. A., retired), Bernard M. Shanley and Thomas E. Stephens.

Although "practically everything" that concerns the President funnels through Adams (the Assistant to the President), all these eight White House staff members may see the President on their own.

Two of them (Adams and Press Secretary Hagerty) share with Secretary John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen Dulles of Central Intelligence the privilege of waking the President at night on a matter of national consequence.

(None has yet exercised this privilege, the Fortune writer adds. The word of Stalin's death was a "hairline case," but the President's advisers decided that the news would keep until morning.)

**PRESS SECRETARY** Hagerty also has a unique privilege: he alone may speak publicly for the President.

Adams serves as Eisenhower's presidential "chief of staff" (although the term is not encouraged around the White House because of the President's distaste for military analogies), Mr. Murphy writes.

Most Cabinet members must go through Adams' office to see the President. But rumors that Adams is isolating the President, quietly gathering power into his own hands, are far from the truth, the writer continues:

"Adams is no Richelieu or Colonel House. A simple rule guides him: to see that the President's job is done in the way the President wants."

Among the eight key staff members, the man with the closest personal relationship with Eisenhower is General "Jerry" Persons, who has known the President since both were junior officers in the 1930's. Formerly the Army's negotiator with Congress, he is now Eisenhower's chief Congressional liaison.

Persons, Hauge, Cutler, Shanley and Jackson all attend the Friday Cabinet sessions, where Dr. Hauge monitors the agenda. Administrative Assistant Hauge, at 38, is the senior White House adviser on trade, commerce, and economic affairs. He also has the portfolio for scientific liaison, and will be the link between the President and the new Council of Economic Advisers.

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